



# I Peter 2: 18-20

Lifestyle  
Command with  
Respect to:  
Servants to  
Masters



# I Peter 2: 11 & 12

HHBC



**Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.**

## ABOVE: THIS IS THE GENERAL EXHORTATION; THE OVERARCHING THEME WE ARE PRESENTLY IN

- After this, Peter turns to the relative walk of believers in a world that while God is sovereign, yet permits His own to suffer for righteousness sake for the name of Christ, but ought never to suffer for having done wrong: **verses 13 - 20**
- The path for the Christian is clearly laid out: he is in an attitude of subjection to human authorities and institutions . . . He gives honor to all men, and to each in his own place, so that no one will have any reproach to bring against him. **[last week]**
- He is submissive to his masters, even if they are bad men and yields to their ill-treatment . . .
- If he were subject only to the good and gentle, a worldly slave would have done as much, but if, having done well, he suffers and bears it patiently, this is acceptable to God: this is GRACE. **[Today's subject matter: verses 18-20]**
- It is how Christ Himself suffered and acted ... **[Next week's subject matter]** **[J.N. DARBY'S SYNOPSIS]**
- Keep in mind: **they were suffering** under their present condition as aliens/strangers in Galatia; **we are suffering** under our present condition as strangers/aliens on planet Earth. [ a double entendre, if you will . . . ]
- J. Vernon McGee: outlines the entire book of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter as: (1.) Suffering and the security of the believer produces joy; **[ch1:1-9]** (2.) Suffering and the Scriptures produces holiness, **[ch1:10-25]** and (3.) Suffering in world and the Suffering of Christ **[Chapters 2-4]**

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## SLAVERY: THE BAD, THE WORSE & THE UGLY –

- Slavery was an ever-present reality in the Roman world; Richison estimates there were 60 million slaves then.
- Slaves served in households, agriculture, mines, the military, manufacturing workshops, construction and a wide range of services within the city
- In Italy: 1 in 3 were slaves; 1 in 5 across the Roman Empire; and upon this foundation of forced labor was built the entire edifice of the Roman state and society.
- Freedom then, was not a general right; but a select privilege
- Supply of Slaves: War conquest, Highway robbery and plunder (brigandage; this was Mohammed's modus operandi)
- Use of Slaves: was by private individuals or the state. Used in agriculture (grain, vine and olive sectors), in mines (gold and silver), manufacturing, transportation, education (where they brought their specialist knowledge of such topics as philosophy and medicine to the Roman world), the military (principally as baggage porters and camp assistants), the service industries (from food to accounting), **in the private home**, in the construction industry, on road-building projects, in public baths, and even to perform tasks in certain cult rituals.



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## SLAVERY: THE BAD, THE WORSE & THE UGLY, Part 2 – Brief look at Slavery in America

- **Not ALL slavery in N.T. times was chattel slavery** as in the American South; a lot was contracted; voluntary (as payment in exchange for payment of debts); semi-voluntary;
- **The first indentured servants in America** arrived in 1607: skilled and unskilled laborers from Europe who came to America; 1/2 to 2/3 of new immigrants to America came as indentured servants
- **After service, American indentured servants got a Freedom Package:** typically 25 acres of land; 1 year's worth of corn; a musket or two; a cow; and some new clothes
- **In 1619: the first African slaves arrived in Virginia:** INITIALLY, they were on the same footing as the European indentured servant counterparts
- **But as the economy grew,** and slave laws were passed in Virginia & Massachusetts; indentured servitude morphed into racial, chattel slavery of Africans (which was very much less expensive)
- **Who supplied American chattel slavery?:** Barbary coast pirates (1500-1800); these were Muslim pirates who raided ships for loot and captured non-muslim people for slavery. About 1 million European slaves were taken, many Christian

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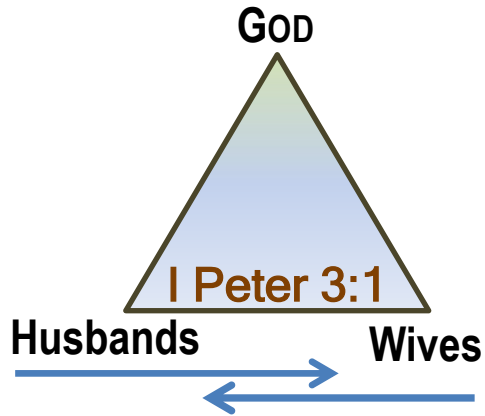


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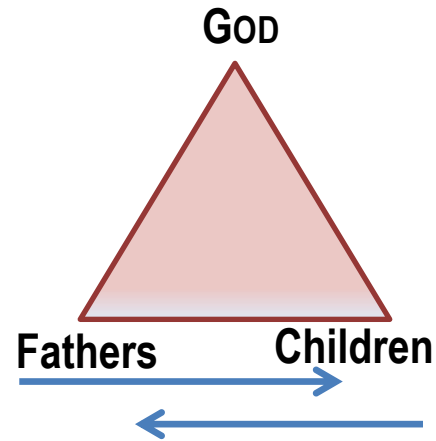
## SLAVERY/ SERVITUDE: GOD'S VIEWPOINT, Part 3 –

- **God abhors chattel slavery:** *“He who kidnaps a man, whether he sells him or he is found in his possession, shall surely be put to death.”* Exo. 21:16
- **His viewpoint:** change of master/slave relationship to equal brother/brother relationship; hints at releasing Onesimus or changing relationship to voluntary service (Philemon.1:16)
- **Releasing the servant every 7<sup>th</sup> year** and protection of their rights: Exo. 21:1-11
- **REMAIN AS CALLED** if you are a slave [I Cor 7:20-24]
- **Example of Godly service:** Joseph 's service to Potiphar and to Pharaoh; He didn't become vindictive when Potiphar's wife had him sent to prison. He used his talents well in Potiphar's house, in jail, then with Pharaoh
- **Example of Godly service:** Daniel's service to King Nebuchadnezzar
- Note: slaves & servants were most likely the largest audience of Paul and Peter in their epistles. There weren't many landowners, noblemen, etc. stated in I Cor 1: 26-29: *“For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; 27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, 28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, 29 so that no man may boast before God.”*

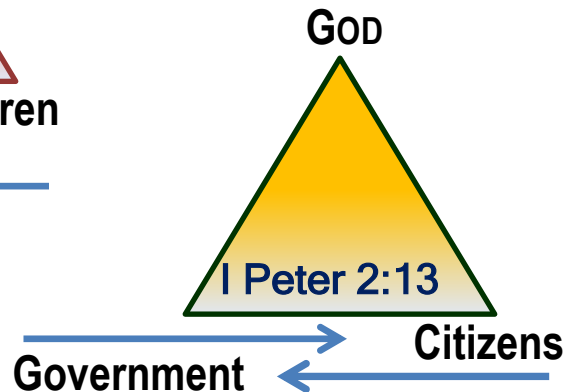
# Paul/Peter's Conducting yourself in:



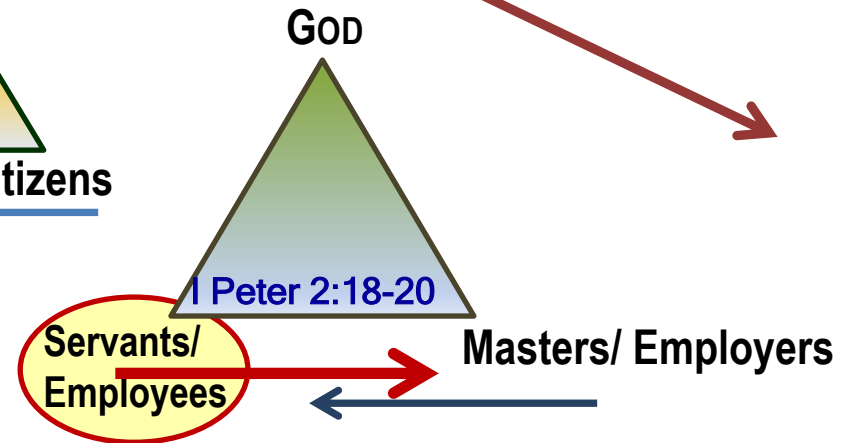
- Conduct yourself in your family life:



- Conduct yourself in your social life:



- Conduct yourself in your economic life:



Hierarchy of Value

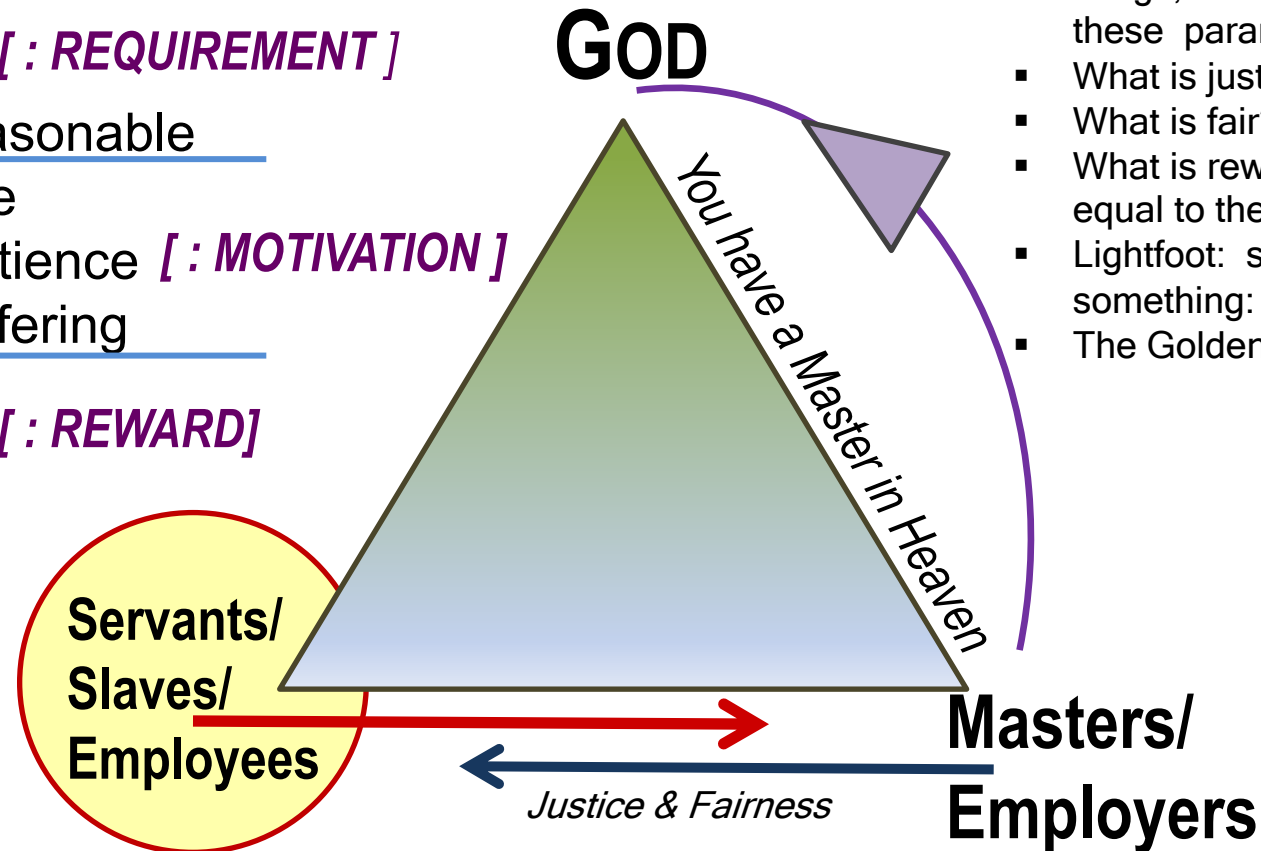
# I Peter 2: 18-20: Conducting yourself in your economic life:

## SERVANTS: from I Peter 2:18-20

- Be Submissive to masters
- With all respect *[ : REQUIREMENT ]*
- To gentle ones & the unreasonable
- For your conscience's sake
- For righteous, enduring patience *[ : MOTIVATION ]*  
sake under the yoke of suffering
- This finds favor with God *[ : REWARD ]*

## MASTERS: FROM COL 4:1

- You, as Master must render these 2 things; YOU are the one deciding these parameters. Pres. Midd. Imp.
- What is just and right?
- What is fair?
- What is reward/compensation is equal to the task?
- Lightfoot: show yourself to be something: FAIR, EQUITABLE
- The Golden Rule



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## Verse 18:

## The Requirement:

- **Servants:** is NOT - δοῦλος **doulos** as in *EPH 6:5, COL 3:22, I TIM 6:1, TITUS 2:9*
- **Instead:** it is οἰκέτης **oiketēs**: oy-kay-taes
- **Therefore:** Peter isn't addressing bondslaves, or chattel slaves, but household servants, members of a family household;  
This could have been Jewish manservants; maidservants to a Jewish family. Downton Abbey-type servants
- **Be submissive:** ὑποτάσσω; **hypotasso**: AGAIN as in vs. 13: arranging yourself under; yielding to another's control; expresses continuous activity of submitting.
- **With all respect:** NOT OPTIONAL. Peter has respect for God, respect for authorities and respect for masters in this passage
- **For the gentle:** the equitable, fair and mild masters; those with the 'milk of human kindness'; not unduly rigorous..
- **Also for the unreasonable:** σκολιός **skolios**: for the crooked & the curved master as well; the *from-ward* (adverse); the surly master; the vindictive



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## Verse 19: The Motivation:

- **It FINDS FAVOR with God:** note the restatement/ recapitulation in Verse 20
- **Favor:** χάρις **charis** = grace; it is thankworthy, since charis translates to 'thanks'; it's commendable  
"Thankworthy" is the translation of a Greek word referring to an action that is beyond the ordinary course of what might be expected, and is therefore commendable. [WUEST]  
Opposed to what would be expected which is: anger, malice, vindictiveness and being sullen toward the master
- **It's also FOR conscience sake God-ward:** standing before God with a GOOD conscience & not a bad one..
- The servant's motivation is TO PLEASE GOD
- **Bearing up under unjust suffering:** exhibiting forbearing patience; **a fruit of the spirit**, Gal. 5:22
- **It is acting towards the pagan, unreasonable master with charis:** undeserved, unmerited favor towards him as Christ did for that surly master on the cross for his sins . . .
- Therefore: it will convict the crooked master of his sin (the convicting work of the H.S.) and is a soul-winning endeavor for the servant. Thus PLEASES God.

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## Verse 20:

## The Reward:

- **It FINDS FAVOR with God:** recapitulated from Verse 19 . . .
- **However: what Credit is there for the other suffering?** IF, the suffering is on you; you are suffering because you were insulant, sullen, disobedient, disrespecting of your master/employer? In other words, you justly have it coming
- **The KJV:** Has: *“For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.”*
- **Buffeted** = *κολαφίζω* ***kolaphizo***: is to strike with the fist; to pummel. There is no praise/glory for getting whacked if you deserved it. In employee terms; if you were fired, demoted, reprimanded, docked pay, suspended
- However, suffering unjustly at the hands of a master/(employer) is designed by God for your growth, and His glory
- **Wuest:** serving an odious master with meekness, patience and grace is a powerful testimony for the gospel, and may bring the master under conviction of sin;
- **Wuest:** **This may** irritate the master, even compelling him to more ill-treatment of the good and gentle servant;
- **Wuest:** masters, however, unwilling to dispense with the good servant for a pagan one, as the good servant offers him better and more trustworthy service.

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IN SUMMARY:

Crooked, adverse Master / Employer

Source of Suffering:

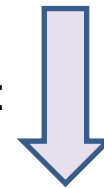


Input: harsh treatment; vindictiveness, favoritism, "pummeling", etc.

Servant/employee: Believer

Eph 5:18: *Being filled with the Holy Spirit.*

Output:



Gal 5:22-23:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

I Peter 2:20;  
Rom 5:3-4:

*Favor with God;  
Perseverance,  
Proven Character,  
Hope . . .*

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Rom 5:2

The Glory of God;  
Beholding Christ

Rom 5:2;  
II Cor 3:18.